वहां पर बिजली उत्पन्न होती है, तो ये सब कटेंट्स भी इसमें पड़े हैं, तो इनके बारे में भी सोचा जाए और निश्चित पालिसी तय करके पूरे देश की पावर प्रोडक्शन प्लानिंग, पावर जनरेशन प्लानिंग इस तरह से बनाई जाए और ट्रांसमीशन व डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन लाइन पावर ग्रिड के जरिए ऐसे की जाएं जिससे कि हम हर स्टेट को उसकी जरुरियात के मुताबिक बिजली दे सकें।

आज परिस्थिति यह है कि ईस्टर्न स्ट्रेट्स में पावर उपलब्ध है और हम वेस्टर्न स्टेट्स को नहीं दे पाते, सदर्न स्टेट्स को नहीं दे पाते। अगर प्रॉपर पॉवर डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम डेवलप किया जाएगा तो जो सरप्लस पावर है, उसका भी हम यूटिलाइजेशन कर सकेंगे।

तो मैंने यह दो-चार मुद्दे आपके जरिए विचार के लिए रखे हैं और मैं समझती हूं कि मंत्री जी इनका जवाब देंगे। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Now I will call Mr. Parag Chaliha. Just one Minute. The Railway Minister wants to say something.

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : सर, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि रेलवे एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल पर चर्चा आज होगी या कल?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Hon. Minister, there is a suggestion that certain Members want to speak. They are not here, for example, Chavan Sahib. We will have it tomorrow. You can move the Bill today. If there is time we can resume the debate or we can discuss it tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)... The hon. Minister has some other engagement. He is taking the permission of the Chair to move the Bill. We can discuss it tomorrow. He has a meeting. He has to go. He can move it today. We can discuss it tomorrow.

THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) No. 4 BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I think we can debate it tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Sir, I seek your indulgence. The Minister has agreed because the hon. Chavan Sahib is particular. I would like the House to consider all the three Bills, the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, the General Budget Appropriation Bill and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Bill. Could you please mention that we have to pass the three Bills tomorrow? The Members should co-operate with minimum discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I cannot give any direction to the House. It is for the House to decide.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am only asking you, Sir, to convey to the Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): They will be p if the House so desires. Without putting any pre-condition on your salaries and allowances we can pass these Bills. That is the assurance which the Minister is asking for. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: What is this? I am only requesting. (*Interruptions*).. There is a limit to this. (*Interruptions*).. What is this? It is only a request. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): It is only a request from the Government.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Please understand the.. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Meena, please sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Mr. Bhatt, Shri S. B. Chavan sent for me. Don't make these allegations. (*Interruptions*) MR. CHAVAN sent for me. I have got a written letter from Shri Chavan.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT (Gujarat): My point is... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I have got a written note from Shri Chavan. Don't make these allegations. Mr. Bhatt, don't caste aspersions. I have got a written letter from Shri Chavan. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): It is appropriate for the Government to make a request to the Chair. I have to put it to the House. It is for the House to decide. It is only a suggestion from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Now the Railway Minister can go. We will resume the discussion on the Calling Attention Motion.

Calling Attention to matter of urgent Public Importance—Power Crisis in the country—(Contd).

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (ASSAM): Sir, I represent one of the most, if not the most, neglected regions in the country, i.e. the north-eastern region. Although Assam possesses enormous potentialities and the Brahmaputra river in Assam has enormous potentialities for production of power, Assam still lags behind in setting up power projects and in generating power even at the fag-end of this year.

I had an opportunity to meet the previous Minister of Power in respect of one particular power project known as Anguri power project. The foundation of this project was laid in 1986. But nothing whatsoever has been done so far. We can see one thing which has been done and that is the basic infrastructure which was added was shifted from there. In these 11 years nothing has been done. We are given to understand that the NTPC is preparing for doing something tangible about this particular project. Will the hon. Minister tell us categorically what will be the fate of the Anguri project the foundation of which was laid in 1986? Our information is that some countries including China are very much interested in doing something for power generation in the north-eastern region. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any such proposal has come. If so, what are its details?

As has been stated earlier, the outlay in the 9th Plan for power generation in Assam or in the north-eastern region is yet to be finalised. During the last visit of the Prime Minister to this area we were given to understand that the Anguri project will be taken up in the 9th Plan. Sir, you will be surprised to know that Assam is the only State where in all the District Headquarters including the State Headquarters, Guwahati people are suffering from power shortage for three times or four times everyday and that too for more than one hour. It will appear to be a story. But it is certainly not a story.

It is our everyday experience. Will the hon. Minister take some positive steps for the development of the north